

### ***Amendments to the Claims***

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A compressible dosage form comprising a substantially uniform distribution of active cushioning components, wherein the active cushioning component is a bead, granule, particle or pellet and, wherein the active cushioning component comprises:

- a) a core comprising an active-loaded particle; and
- b) a porous cushioning layer surrounding the core, wherein the cushioning layer comprises a highly compactable filler, and a highly water absorbing material;

wherein the active cushioning component is made by a process comprising

- i) admixing the highly compactable filler, the highly water absorbing material, water and the active-loaded particles to form an admixture and forming a bead, granule, particle or pellet; and
- ii) freeze-drying the bead, granule, particle or pellet to form the active cushioning component, wherein the freeze-drying process creates the porous cushioning layer that surrounds the active-loaded particle core,

wherein the active-loaded particles exhibit substantially no fracturing or degradation.

2. (Previously presented) The compressible dosage form of claim 1, wherein the cushioning layer of part (b) is a bead or particle and has a particle size ranging from about 20  $\mu\text{m}$  up to about 2000  $\mu\text{m}$ .
3. (Previously presented) The compressible dosage form of claim 2, wherein the cushioning layer is a bead or particle and has a particle size ranging from about 20  $\mu\text{m}$  up to about 1000 $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. (Previously presented) The compressible dosage form of claim 2, wherein the cushioning layer is a bead or particle and has a particle size ranging from about 20  $\mu\text{m}$  up to about 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .
5. (Previously presented) The compressible dosage form of claim 1, wherein the active-loaded particles are present in an amount ranging from about 0.1% to about 97% by weight based on the total weight of the active cushioning component.
6. (Previously presented) The compressible dosage form of claim 1, wherein the active-loaded particles are present in an amount ranging from about 20% to about 90% by weight based on the total weight of the active cushioning component.
7. (Previously presented) The compressible dosage form of claim 1, wherein the active-loaded particles are present in an amount ranging from about 40% to about 75% by weight based on the total weight of the active cushioning component.
8. (Original) The compressible dosage form of claim 1, wherein the highly compactable filler is present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 90% based on the combined weight of highly-water absorbing material and compactable filler.
9. (Original) The compressible dosage form of claim 8, wherein the highly compactable filler is present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 80% based on the combined weight of highly-water absorbing material and compactable filler.
10. (Original) The compressible dosage form of claim 8, wherein the highly compactable filler is present in an amount ranging from about 5% to about 60% based on the combined weight of highly-water absorbing material and compactable filler.
11. (Original) A tablet comprising the compressible dosage form of claim 1.